# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CIVIL AVIATION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:439
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
FACILITIES FOR EVACUEES FROM GULF
A.K. PREMAJAM

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Secretary, Civil Aviation has recently visited the Gulf region for on the spot evaluation of the condition of Indians against the backdrop of the Iraq war;

(b) if so, the details of the countries visited and the conditions of the Indians there; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN )

(a), (b), and (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARED QUESTION NO. 439 DATED 21.04.2003, TABLED BY PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM, REGARDING FACILITIES FOR EVACUEES FROM GULF.

(a), (b), and (c) : In view of the media reports about non-availability of seats for Indians wanting to come to India in the wake of Iraq War, Secretary, Civil Aviation visited Kuwait on 23rd March, 2003. He held discussions with Civil Aviation Authorities of Kuwait and leaders of Indian Community. On the first day of Iraq war, there was some rush for seats in flights going to India. Air India and Indian Airlines undertook some extra flights on commercial basis to clear this initial rush. Secretary, Civil Aviation was assured by Kuwait Authorities that Kuwait airspace and airport would not be closed. This information and the decision of government of India to continue operation of all the India-Kuwait flights by Air India and Indian Airlines were conveyed to the Indian community. Secretary, Civil Aviation also assured the Indian community that Government of India would take all possible steps to ensure the safe evacuation of Indians living in Kuwait, if it became necessary.